

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Applicants have amended the specification to reflect the claim for priority.

Applicants have amended the claims by canceling claims 16-24, which were elected in co-pending Application Serial No. 10/344,412, from which the present application claims priority. Thus claims 1-15 remain pending in the present application. Remaining claims 1-15 correspond to non-elected claims from Application Serial No. 10/344,412.

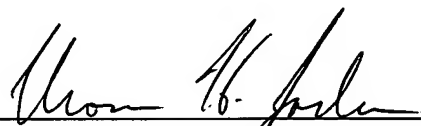
Should the Commissioner find that a fee is due for this preliminary amendment, authorization is hereby given to charge any such fee, except the issue fee, to Deposit Account 19-0733. If there are any questions the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 824-3119.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2003

By:

  
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THJ/mmd